

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 NEAE-00 SSO-00

INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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O P 121815Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6968

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL TANGIER PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN PRIORITY

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY PRIORITY

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON PRIORITY

FOSIF ROTA PRIORITY

COMSIXTHFLT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BANGUI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 5504

USCINCEUR AND CINCUSNAVEUR ALSO FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, MO, SP, SS

SUBJECT: SAHARA DEVELOPMENTS

1. DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY. ARRIVAL OF GOM DELEGATION IN MADRID

NOV 11 WAS FOLLOWED BY ARRIVAL OF MAURITANIAN DELEGATION THERE

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SAME DAY. OULD DADDAH ARRIVED IN MARRAKECH MIDDAY NOV 12

FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH KING. MAURITANIANEMBASSY COUT ELOR DECLINED NOV 12 TO DISCUSS RECENT OULD DADDAH TRIP TO ALGERIA OR CURRENT VISIT HERE, BUT ASKED EMBOFF RHETORICALLY WHY ALGERIA SHOULD EXPECT TO APPROVE ANY AGREEMENT SPAIN, MOROCCO, AND MAURITANIA MIGHT REACH ON SAHARA. HE ANSWERED HIS OWN QUESTION BY SAYING SUCH AN IDEA "NEITHER REASONABLE NOR LOGICAL."

2. GOM MEDIA OUTPUT HAS BEEN UPBEAT ON NEGOTIATIONS FOR PAST TWO DAYS. AUTHORITATIVE PUBLISHER OF SEMI-OFFICIAL LE MATIN AND MOROC SOIR, AHMED ALAOUI, HAS WRITTEN EDITORIALS NOV 11 AND 12 WHICH HIGHLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT GOM PROSPECTS IN MADRID TALKS. HIS NOV 11 ARTICLE PRAISED ARAB AND MUSLIM NATIONS FOR THEIR SUPPORT. HE ALSO SAID MOROCCO HAD FOUND IN WESTERN EUROPE AND AMERICA SOME "REAL FRIENDS" WHO HAD DEMONSTRATED THEIR "EFFECTIVE SYMPATHY" AND "POLITICAL SUPPORT" BY EXERCISING THEIR "BENEVOLENT NEUTRALITY" IN SC AND NOT SUPPORTING MOVE TO CONDEMN MOROCCO IN THAT BODY. IN ADDITION, ALAOUI EXPRESSED HOPE THAT MOROCCO, ON NOV 18 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE WOULD BE ABLE CELEBRATE RETURN OF SAHARA.

3. NOV 12 ALAOUI EDITORIAL WAS MORE SPECIFIC ON NEGOTIATING SITUATION, CLAIMING THAT DURING GOS MINISTER CARRO'S VISIT "NECESSARY GUARANTEES" HAD BEEN FORMULATED AND "COMMITMENTS" UNDERTAKEN IN NAME OF GOS. ALAOUI WROTE, "AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE ON RECOGNITION OUR SOVEREIGNTY" HAD BEEN OBTAINED BEFORE CURRENT ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS AND THAT KING MADE HIS NOV 9 STATEMENT (ON WITHDRAWAL OF MARCHERS) ON THAT BASIS. ONLY "DEFINING MODALITIES" OF "RETROCESSION" REMAINED, HE SAID, SINCE, "POLITICAL ACCORD" ALREADY REACHED. EDITORIAL EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT UN COULD ONLY RENDER ITS "WARM APPROBATION" ON PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTE BY THE TWO PARTIES.

4. WE NOTE NOV 11 REUTER ITEM ON EGYPTIAN DENIAL THAT ANY SADAT MEDIATION EFFORT CURRENTLY UNDERWAY. THIS DENIAL WAS CARRIED BY L'OPINION, WHICH ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED NOV 11 RUMOR OF IMPENDING SADAT ARRIVAL IN MARRACKECH.

5. CAR MINISTER OF JUSTICE ARRIVED NOV 11 CARRYING MESSAGE TO KING FROM PRESIDENT BOKASSA SUPPORTING MOROCCO'S SAHARA STAND.

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6. OPPOSITION REACTION. ISTIQLAL PRESS CONTINUED ITS UNFALTERING SUPPORT FOR KING'S POSITION, ALTHOUGH STRESSING NEED FOR SPEED AND DISMISSING IN ADVANCE ANY BARGAINING ON QUESTION OF MOROCCAN SOVEREIGNTY OVER SAHARA. USFP'S AL MOUHARRIR, ON OTHER HAND, WHICH SEIZED FOR UNKNOWN REASON NOV 11, CARRIED NOV 12 ARTICLE EXPRESSING NERVOUSNESS OVER MADRID TALKS AND SPANISH INTENTIONS. PREDICTED THAT SOME SETTLEMENT ENVELOPING

CONCEPT OF SELF-DETERMINATION WILL EMERGE, AND THAT F POLISARIO
WILL EXPLOIT SITUATION. AL BAYANE (COMMUNIST PPS) WAS SEIZED
NOV 9 FOR ARTICLE QUESTIONING SPANISH INTENTIONS.

7. COMMENT: THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE SPECULATION AMONG
LOCAL DIPLOMATIC OBSERVERS ABOUT MOROCCAN/MAURITANIAN RELATIONS,
PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF RECENT OULD DADDAH-BOUMEDIENNE MEETING.
PRESENCE OF MAURITANIAN DELEGATION IN MADRID WOULD SEEM TO
INDICATE THAT GOM AND GIRM APPROACHES REMAIN COORDINATED.

8. ALAOUI EDITORIALS PROBABLY REFLECT GOM NEGOTIATING POSITION;
WHETHER THEY REFLECT FACTS OF SITUATION REMAINS TO BE SEEN.
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